

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1, 3-8 and 21-31. Claims 1 and 5-8 have been amended. Claims 2 and 9-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-31 have been added. The Specification and Abstract have been amended.

SPECIFICATION

The Specification has been amended to correct informalities. The Abstract has been amended in response to an objection thereto. Removal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

OATH/DECLARATION

The original declaration, signed August 11, 2000 is objected to regarding an alteration to an inventor's address. The Examiner's attention is to drawn to the fact that the Applicants submitted with the filing of the present application a copy of the supplemental declaration executed on June 13, 2003 obviating the informality. Applicants have attached hereto a copy of the previously submitted supplemental declaration for the Examiner's inspection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of non-statutory double patenting. The Applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer herewith obviating the rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new Claims 21-31. Applicants respectfully assert that new Claims 21-31 are allowable over the prior art, and thus request allowance thereof.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks and the attached terminal disclaimer, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested.


Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3-8 and 21-31 overcome the rejections of record.

Therefore, allowance of Claims 1, 3-8 and 21-31 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
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